

Message Text

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ORIGIN AF-18

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 IO-14 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03

SS-20 USIA-15 OMB-01 /133 R

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USIA - MR. TIMRUD

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R 142355Z MAR 74

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY LAGOS

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR ENRG OAU

SUBJECT: OAU 22ND COUNCIL OF MINISTERS MEETING

REF: ADDIS 2709

1. DEPT BELIEVES COVERAGE BY EMBOFF FROM ADDIS OF SUBJECT CONFERENCE IF HELD AT KAMPALA WOULD NOT BE ADVISABLE, FOR FOLLOWING REASONS:

(A) WE HAVE MAINTAINED A POLICY OF DISCOURAGING TRAVEL TO UGANDA BY ANY AMERICAN UNLESS ABSOLUTELY NECESSARY.

(B) GENERAL AMIN IS DEEMED QUITE CAPABLE OF CREATING A SERIOUS INCIDENT, FOR EXAMPLE BY CHARGING THAT EMBOFF
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HAD BEEN SENT TO KAMPALA AS SPY TO OBTAIN OAU SECRETS.

AMIN'S PAST REMARKS INDICATE HE IS OBSESSED WITH IDEA THAT "AGENTS OF IMPERIALISTS" HAVE BEEN OBTAINING SECRETS OF ALC AND MILITARY PLANS OF AFRICAN LIBERATION MOVEMENTS. APPEARANCE BY AN AMERICAN DIPLOMAT IN KAMPALA IN GUISE OF AN ACCREDITED PRESS REPRESENTATIVE TO COVER OAU CONFERENCE COULD FEED HIS IMAGINATION, WITH EMBARRASSING CONSEQUENCES.

(C) DEPT BELIEVES EMBASSY ADDIS COULD ADEQUATELY REPORT ON CONFERENCE THROUGH POST-CONFERENCE CONTACTS WITH OAU PEOPLE IN ADDIS, IEG DELEGATION AND WITH OTHER DIPLOMATS COVERING CONFERENCE.

2. IN VIEW OF RISKS OF AN UNFORTUNATE INCIDENT PROVOKED BY AMIN, DEPT. PREFERS TO FOREGO ON-SPOT COVERAGE OF THIS CONFERENCE.

3. FOR THE SAME REASONS DEPT BELIEVES (AND USIA CONCURS) THAT ON-SPOT COVERAGE BY VOA CORRESPONDENT DAVID WILLIAMS WOULD NOT RPT NOT BE ADVISABLE. KISSINGER

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